



## ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 13172.0001U1 SERIAL NO. 09/514,113

## Marked Up Version of Amended Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Amended) A method of reducing formation of artifacts in a nucleic acid amplification reaction, the method comprising

using a template-deficient oligonucleotide as [at least one of the oligonucleotides]  $\underline{a}$  primer in the nucleic acid amplification reaction,

wherein the template-deficient oligonucleotide comprises one or more template-deficient nucleotides,

wherein the number and composition of template-capable nucleotides 3' of the template-deficient nucleotide closest to the 3' end of the template-deficient oligonucleotide is sufficient to allow the template-capable nucleotides 3' of the template-deficient nucleotide closest to the 3' end alone to effectively prime nucleic acid synthesis in the nucleic acid amplification reaction.

- 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more template-deficient nucleotides are at [or near] the 5' end of the template-deficient oligonucleotide.
- 19. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid amplification reaction is selected from the group consisting of exponential rolling circle amplification (ERCA), [and] rolling circle amplification (RCA), multiple displacement amplification (MDA), strand displacement amplification (SDA), nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA), transcription-mediated amplification (TMA), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), self-sustained sequence replication (3SR), amplification with Qβ replicase, and cycle sequencing.
- 23. (Amended) A method of reducing formation of artifacts in a nucleic acid amplification reaction, the method comprising

using a template-deficient oligonucleotide as [at least one of the oligonucleotides] <u>a</u> primer in the nucleic acid amplification reaction,

wherein the nucleic acid amplification reaction does not involve [cycle sequencing] thermal cycling.

27. (Amended) The method of [26] <u>23</u> wherein the nucleic acid amplification is rolling circle amplification.

W090015

## ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 13172.0001U1 SERIAL NO. 09/514,113

- 31. (Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid amplification reaction is selected from the group consisting of exponential rolling circle amplification (ERCA), [and] rolling circle amplification (RCA), multiple displacement amplification (MDA), strand displacement amplification (SDA), nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA), transcription-mediated amplification (TMA), [polymerase chain reaction (PCR),] self-sustained sequence replication (3SR), and amplification with Qβ replicase.
- 33. (Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the one or more template-deficient nucleotides are at [or near] the 5' end of the template-deficient oligonucleotide.